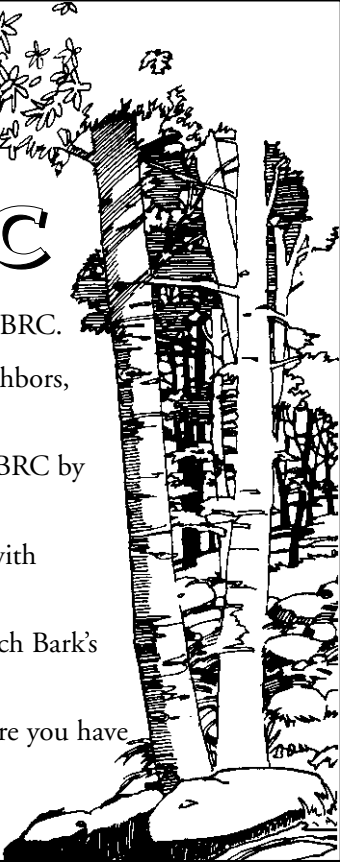


Mark Your Calendars
for 2007!

June 1	BRC Summer Office Opens
June 3	Spring Clean-Up Work Weekend
June 18	BRC Staff Orientation
June 23	C.I.T. Orientation
June 27	BRC Opening 1st Session
July 9	BRC 1st Visitation Day
July 21	BRC 1st Session Ends
July 22	BRC Opening 2nd Session
July 22	Maine Wilderness Adventure
August 5	BRC 2nd Visitation Day
August 12	MWA>Returns
August 14	BRC for Boys ends
August 17	BRC Family Camp Begins
August 21	BRC Family Camp Ends

It's
Easy to
Help BRC

- Send a tax-deductible donation to BRC.
- Promote BRC among friends, neighbors, family and colleagues.
- Refer a prospective camper to the BRC by phone or email.
- Host a gathering of BRC alumni with Directors Deering and Mattson.
- Send us news to include in the Birch Bark's Alumni News column.
- Ask us about our "Wish List" before you have your spring yard sales.
- Join us for Alumni Day–August 4.



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

P.O. Box 148
Waterford, ME 04088

BIRCH ROCK CAMP



A nonprofit corporation

BOARD OF
DIRECTORS

Ryck Birch
Seth Brewster
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ACCREDITED
CAMP
American Camping Association

FALL

2006

THE BIRCH BARK

P.O. Box 148, Waterford, Maine 04088
Winter: (207) 741-2930 Summer: (207) 583-4478
birchrock@aol.com www.birchrock.org
Rich Deering, Alumni Director • Michael Mattson, Camp Director

THE ALUMNI NEWSLETTER OF BIRCH ROCK CAMP

The 80th Anniversary:
The dedication of Deneault's Den

On July 22 – After bidding good-bye to approximately 45 first session campers on a cloudy summer morning, Mother Nature's rain came down splashing and sputtering with all its might but did not literally dampen the wonderful turnout of Birch Rockers past, present and future who descended down the hillside for an amazing 80th afternoon anniversary celebration. From California, Florida, the Mid-West, New York City and neighboring Norway, ME, approximately 150 alumni and present Birch Rock families gathered for a celebration of fellowship and fun.



Thanks for the outstanding organizational efforts of Camp Mom Patty Rood, the BRC Reunion Crew, the BRC CITS and Todd Vincentsen '90s for his outstanding wood carving craftsmanship and presentation of Deneault's Den plague:



Former Directors:
Mike Deneault and Dave Weeks

Mike Deneault sums up the anniversary best in his own words:

Dear Birch Rock, I was so happy to be able to get back to Birch Rock for the 80th Reunion and to have my family with me was special on that day. A little rain did fall, but with the two tents everyone was under cover. Rich and Mike had things under control. I was very much surprised by how many old timers came by.

After all these years the cabin I lived in with Phyllis her first summer at Birch Rock now faces west and the view is much better.....and to top off a great visit, was a wonderful tribute to myself and Phyllis and I thank you all, for the dedication of the cabin formally known as the "Mouse Trap" now known as "Deneault's Den."

It was wonderful seeing everyone, even though communication was hard at times, but to see all your faces, brought may memories and smiles to me. Thank you for a wonderful day and lifetime of memories. A Birch Rock Cheer to you all. Mike



Deneault's Cabin

Formally Mike & Phyllis Deneault's home
This new cabin is dedicated to them
For their leadership, commitment and
love to Birch Rock Camp July 22, 2006



A special thanks to the
Intergenerational Panel Participants:

John Eaton '30s, Robert Cleaves '40s, Steve Davis '50s,
Mike Appicelli '60s, David Weeks '70s, Toby Brewster
'80s, Mike Mattson '90s- and Moderator Rich Deering.

ENJOY BIRCH ROCK IN THE FALL, WINTER AND SPRING!



Chief's Cabin

Chief's, the cabin named after our illustrious founder William Brewster, was finally completed this summer. This beautiful building's construction began in the fall of 2004 with plans to be the camp's first winterized cabin complemented with a full service kitchen, bath and accommodation for 6 -8 people. Now, with its completion, Birch Rock has a building that is available for a donation for all Birch Rock Alumni and Families in the off-season. It is a terrific place for people interested in skiing, fall foliage, or just a "Maine Escape" to retreat and relax. Birch Rock is an amazingly peaceful place in the fall, winter and spring with sensational views of sunsets, wildlife, and nature. For more information about this home away from home contact us at BRC's winter office (207) 741-2930 or birchrock@aol.com.

For the 2007 season, BRC is introducing a shorter program for new campers only, ages 7-10. We will be offering two 12 day sessions in the second half of our season. Here's the information.
Cubs' Camp 1, \$2100, July 22-August 2 and Cubs' Camp II, \$2100, August 2-August 14.

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR THE 2007 SEASON.
For more information please visit our website at: www.birchrock.org

Maine Wilderness Adventure 2006 Pickin' 'Em Up and Puttin' 'Em Down

by MWA Director David Jenkins '83

The Jo-Mary Road is a ruddy, twisted path through Maine's northern wilderness just above Millinocket. In a two-vehicle caravan Don Miguel Apicelli '60s and David Weeks '70 accompanied us to Jo-Mary Campground that would serve as our launching point for the 2006 Maine Wilderness Adventure program. The campground provides a distant foggy view of Mt. Katahdin, the terminus of our first section. For the next four days we slogged through muddy bogs, climbed over fallen timber, and logged nearly 40 miles on the Appalachian Trail. At the Potawajo Lean-to a 'corker' of a lightning storm raged overhead as we slept; brilliant flashes illuminated the poles in our tents. A couple nights later we swam in Rainbow Stream and cooled our aching feet. And while Maine's state birds, the black fly and mosquito, accompanied us on the journey, they never dulled our spirits. Arriving at Abol Pines campground a bit ahead of schedule, we tented on the shore of the Penobscot River in the shadows of Abol Bridge.

Mt. Katahdin looms overhead where we awaited the arrival of Don and Janice with our resupply. From the base of the mountain we eagerly watched for the van and trailer—our fresh stock of fuel, food and dry clothes. And we had our eyes on a shower. Big



Moose Campground is a short drive from our pick-up site and was our home base for the next four nights. Thirty-six hours of R&R followed. Runs to Rite Aid, Hannaford's Grocery, and the Millinocket Laundry filled our time as we rested our aching feet, threw the Frisbee and played cribbage.

Continued on Page 4

BIRCH NEWS BRIEFS

BIRCH ROCK'S NEWEST WHALES

The 2006 season adds five more amazing swimmers who persevered around McWain Pond. Congratulations to Brady Caspar, Ed Cohen, Nick Martin, Jack Coster & Tim Myers. Great work, Gentlemen!

RECOGNITION OF BOARD SERVICE

Chairman Seth Brewster recognized with our deepest appreciation Karen Shelnutt of Douglassville, GA, Kathy & Mike Coster of Falmouth, ME, Jeanne McDonald of Falmouth, ME, and Bruce & Patty Rood of Waterford, ME for their long standing contribution and on-going dedication to the BRC Community at the annual meeting held on September 16. Each member has completed their respective term of service.

AMERICAN CAMPING ASSOCIATION CHIEF EXECUTIVE VISITS BRC

ACA National Chief Executive Officer Peg Smith and ACA New England Executive Director Bette Bussell selected BRC as one of six camps to visit during their Maine tour. Peg writes: "What a blessing you are for the boys who attend your camp. I feel honored to have walked your grounds! Thank you for your hospitality!"

BRC PARTNERS IN MCWAIN POND EROSION SURVEY

Conducted by the Lakes Environmental Assn. in cooperation with the McWain Pond Assn., the Town of Waterford, Camp Waziyatah, Portland Water District and DEP, surveyors are identifying several brooks that run down from many shoreland hills that may cause some eroding soil in the pond. The final report, due out in spring 2007, will be used as an educational tool to promote pond stewardship and as a springboard for future erosion control efforts.

BIRCH ROCK'S FOURTH ACA ACCREDITATION VISIT COMPLETE

Thanks to the efforts of the entire BRC community, the camp's fourth American Camping Assn. visit was successfully conducted on July 10. Led by Barbara from Camp Agawam in Raymond, ME and Bud from Camp Omni in Poland, ME, BRC met all standards in Human Resources, Transportation, Site, Sanitation & Management, Programming, Health & Safety, Water Aquatics, Trip & Travel, and Operational Procedures. Barbara writes "Thanks so much for sharing Birch Rock with me. It's a wonderful camp, your care and hard-work is evident from the renovated buildings, to the interaction between the staff and boys".

SIX NEW TRUSTEES FOR BIRCH ROCK CAMP

Win & Allison Smith of Scarborough, ME, Joan Koffman & Nancy Dreyer of Newton, MA, Doug & Nancy Cole of Wayland, MA were elected to Birch Rock's Board of Directors at the annual meeting held at camp on September 16. Each member will serve a three year term. Welcome and thank you!

RICH DEERING IS PRESIDENT ELECT OF MYCA

In addition to serving as the association's current Treasurer, Rich was also elected President Elect at the annual meeting of directors for the Maine Youth Camping Assn. on July 5 at Camp Wohelo in Raymond. Rich will be succeeding Bob Strauss of Camp Wigwam in South Waterford, ME in July 2007.

PATRICK BOWDEN WINNER OF BRC'S ANNUAL TRIATHLON

BRC's second annual triathlon proved to be an outstanding event for all involved. Congratulations to Brady Caspar, Jack Coster, David Florence, Tim Myers, Dylan Laycox, Andy Churchill, Ed Cohen and Henry Schmid. Thanks to all the participants who swam a Duck, biked around McWain Pond and ran up the hill from Springer's General Store with such incredible endurance and performance. Leading the pack for 2006 was Patrick "Peanut Butter" Bowden. Nice, job Pat and all the triathletes!

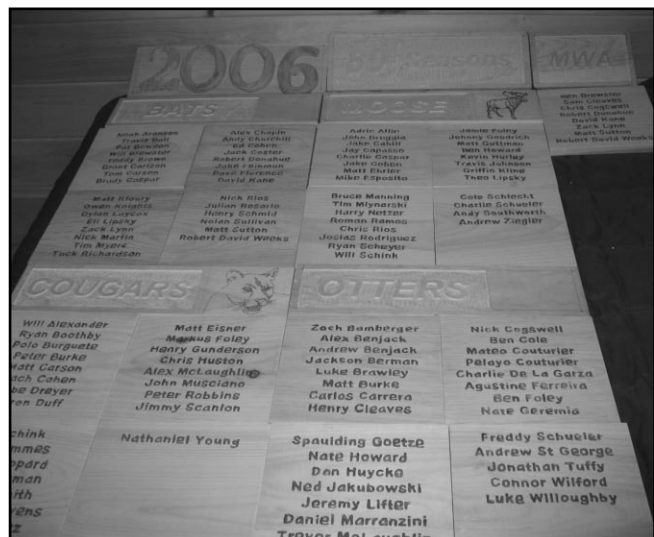
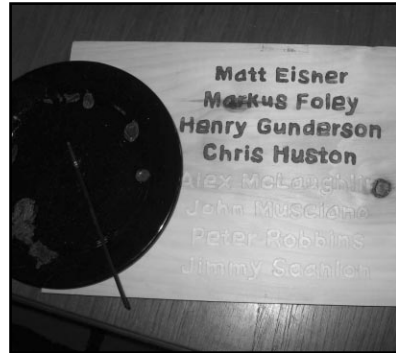
BIRCH ROCK DEMOGRAPHICS

Our 80th season had a plethora of states and countries represented: **New England** – 61 campers; **Mid-Atlantic**- 26 campers; **Mid-West** –9 campers; **South** – 7 campers; **West** – 3 Campers; 9 **Foreign Campers** including **Dominican Republic, Mexico, Germany** and **Israel**. Additionally, we had 2 counselors from Sweden and 1 from France.

Plaque Making 2006

By Camp Director Mike Mattson '83-

I never really had any idea how much time is spent working on the plaques each summer until I was a part of the process. It is amazing that Chief did it on his own for so many summers. After Chief passed away in 1973 the camp had the campers carve their own plaques for a little more than 10 summers before we decided to have individual staff members take care of it. Now the camp is twice as big as it was in the Chief era, and it takes many hands to lighten the load and accelerate the process. We all love seeing our names on the wall and understand the importance of it, but many have no idea the time spent tackling such a noble task. Here's to all those great Birch Rockers in history who helped to carry on this remarkable tradition started by the camp's founder in 1926.



Continued from Page 2



July 31st 2006. 4:30 AM. Shining stars and cool temps foretold of sterling weather. Piling into the van as the sun rose, we drove into Baxter State Park, hoping to summit Mt. Katahdin. After a short briefing from a park ranger, we ascended Chimney Pond Trail, and launched up Cathedral Trail, scrambling over boulders and scaling over 800 vertical feet in good time. Arriving at Katahdin's chief summit Baxter Peak, we shared the vista with some 40-odd fellow climbers. Leaving the peak we traversed the notorious Knife's Edge, a jagged and intimidating spiny backbone of a ridge. The breadth of the Knife's Edge is 30 feet at most and both sides of the Edge fall off over 2000 feet. Pictures can only capture a portion of the awesome geography that baffles the eyes. Descending the Helon Taylor Trail we arrived back at Big Moose on schedule for supper. The next day we rafted the Penobscot River.

And rafting did not disappoint. Under the capable, albeit idiosyncratic, leadership of raft guides Decker and Nolan we paddled the tamer low portion of the river in the morning, surfing in rapids until drenched. Not everyone escaped an unexpected dip in the river and the group pulled together, coming to the aid of these unlucky lads. In the afternoon, after a big lunch provided by North Country Rivers, we were ready for the big water of the upper Penobscot. The gnarliest rapid is called Cribworks. Boats enter this rip and plunge off a six-foot shelf, and counter with a sharp turn to starboard, only to be shot into a roaring shoot with headhigh water on each side. All told, this day may have been the favorite of many Birch Rockers.

Rob Scribner met us in Vanceboro riverside. One night of base-camping and we were off the next morning for four days of whitewater canoeing. Day one provided the group with the biggest rapid of the itinerary, Little Falls. By early afternoon, we stood in the St. Croix, ready to run the rip with empty canoes; it was too early to risk fishing for gear downstream should a boat capsize. After advance scouting the rapid, the boys knew exactly where to steer and which V to shoot for. Every boat managed the section successfully with one boat requiring a second run; the first was "practice". Campsites on the river stood up off the water on pine beds with small remote islands at sea, the weather urged a different plan. With permission from Washington Academy, Rob arranges for us to stay on Raider Point in the Bay of Machias looking out to sea. We spend a morning at a nearby lake to hone our skills and practice wet-exits from kayaks; some Birch Rock boys shine, and a leader stays dry instead.

The mosquitoes were in full force on the Point and this kept us moving and active. Frisbee on the beach was a big hit and Rob's delicious beachside meals left us satiated and geared up for the next day's big paddle. Through the Bay of Machias we wound; in, around, and on islands we explored. Petroglyphs exist on the surface of the island rocks in the bay, and we each seized the opportunity to inspect these mysterious sketches as Rob delivered a short history lesson. Midafternoon we ventured back to the point and settled in for spaghetti and meatballs. The following morning began the last leg of our cross-Maine expedition.

Acadia National Park on Mt. Desert Island offers staggering views, rugged terrain, and a little vacationland fun. Acadia Mountain Guides, a premier rock-climbing outfitter, led our group through three days of intense climbing both in the mountains and on the coast. Each boy challenged himself and found a reserve of courage and fortitude to fuel a special success. Some fought with the physical demands of climbing, while others battled fear of heights. Some took to rock like spiders and pushed themselves toward the most challenging routes and handholds. Our climbing leaders communicated to the Birch Rock trip leaders that our crew impressed them greatly. Apparently the respect we give, the attention we pay, and the enjoyment we find separates us from the typical camp group they lead. While on the island we camped at the Blackwoods Campground. And, what trip is complete without a little beach time? An afternoon at the beach was the perfect comedown to a morning of climbing Mt. Dorr and Cadillac Mountain, the two highest peaks in the park.



Maine's Wilderness Adventure 2006

L to R: Patrick McCarthy, Zack Lynn, Chris Cosgswell, Bob Donahue, Matt Sutton, David Jenkins, RD Weeks, David Kane, Sam Cleaves and Ben Brewster.

Through a small sprinkle we ascended the two peaks, then began our descent. Here I found myself reflecting on the trip that was. As a group we gelled, laughed, supported, challenged, hiked, swam, paddled canoes, and nearly rowed. And we ate...a lot. We shared the responsibility of living in the woods, shunned the need for showers, and distanced ourselves from many modern conveniences. We gleaned a bit of what it is like to live more simply. As a unit stronger than the sum of its parts, a wolf pack, we moved in the Birch Rock spirit. Each boy showed patience; each learned. Each laughed and each grew. A concluding night of this adventure we spent around a fire listening to stories, pulled together to listen attentively to a common voice. The voices of our 2006 trip reach out to me now and will for years to come. I offer heartfelt thanks to the boys for making the trip awesome. I hope we can do it again sometime.